



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Department of Planning and Development
D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Application Number: 2407564
Application Name: Julie Ledoux
Address of Proposal: 4533 NE 55th Street

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Master Use Permit to establish use and construct two single family dwelling units and 1, 3-story 3-unit townhouse for a total of 5 units. Parking for five vehicles will be located within the structure. The project includes demolition of the existing apartment building.

The following approval is required:

SEPA - Environmental Determination - Chapter 25.05, Seattle Municipal Code.

SEPA DETERMINATION: ☐ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS
☒ DNS with conditions
☐ DNS involving non-exempt grading, or demolition, or another agency with jurisdiction.

* Early Notice DNS published March 28, 2005

BACKGROUND DATA

Site & Area Description

The 7,597 square foot proposal site is located on the south side of NE 55th Street approximately 305 feet from the intersection of 45th Avenue NE and NE 55th Street. The existing lot is essentially rectangular and measures 61.31 feet wide and 126.26 deep. The site is zoned Multifamily Lowrise 1. The subject site is currently developed with a four unit apartment building. The existing apartment building would be demolished and removed from the site under a separate permit. There is no alley. Vehicular access to the site is from North 55th Street.

The existing concrete pavement is part of the existing sidewalk along the street on the project location. The site is relatively flat from the front to the rear property line where the site abuts on a steep slope portion of the Burke Gilman trail to the west. Other features existing on the proposal site include two Apple trees, one Pine, one Plum, one Blue Spruce and several Western Red Cedar trees.

The L-1 zone abuts the Single Family 5000 (SF-5000) zone to the north, east and west and LDT zone to the south. Development in the immediate zone and vicinity is predominantly a mixture of single family and multifamily residences uses.

Proposal

The applicant proposes to construct two Single Family dwellings and one three unit townhouse structure for a total of five units. Parking for each unit will be provided within the buildings. The existing four unit apartment building will be demolished and removed from the site.

Public Comments

The public comment period for this project started on March 28, 2005 and ended on April 11, 2005. No comments were received.

ANALYSIS - SEPA

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the Seattle State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11, and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05).

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist dated December 2, 2004. The information in the checklist submitted by the applicant and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, certain neighborhood plans, and other policies explicitly referenced may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority.

The Overview Policy states, in part, "Where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation" subject to some limitations. Under such limitations/circumstances (SMC25.05.665) mitigation can be considered. Thus a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate.

Short-term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected: minor decreased air quality due to suspended particulate from building activities and hydrocarbon emissions from construction vehicles and equipment; increased traffic and demand for parking from construction equipment and personnel; increased noise, and consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources. Several adopted codes and/or ordinances provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. The Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code regulates site excavation for foundation purposes and requires that soil erosion control techniques be initiated for the duration of construction. The Street Use Ordinance requires debris to be removed from the street right-of-way, and includes regulations for maintaining circulation in the public right-of-way. Puget Sound Clean Air Agency regulations require control of fugitive dust to

protect air quality. The Building Code provides for construction measures in general. Finally, the Noise Ordinance regulates the time and amount of construction noise that is permitted in the city. Compliance with these applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most short-term impacts to the environment. Most of these impacts are minor in scope and are not expected to have significant adverse impacts (SMC 25.05. 794). However, due to the residential density, further analysis of construction impacts is warranted. The following is an analysis of the short-term impacts to the environment as well as mitigation.

Noise

Excavation will be required to prepare the building sites and foundations for the new buildings. Additionally, as development proceeds, noise associated with construction of the buildings could adversely affect the surrounding residential uses. Due to the proximity of neighboring residential uses, the limitations of the Noise Ordinance are found to be inadequate to mitigate the potential noise impacts. Pursuant to the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC.25.05.665) and the SEPA Construction Impacts Policy (SMC 25.05.675 B), mitigation is warranted. The hours of construction activity shall be limited to non-holiday weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This condition may be modified by DPD to allow work of an emergency nature. This condition may also be modified to permit low-noise exterior work (e.g., installation of landscaping) after approval from DPD (3 days advance notice required).

Air Quality

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) regulations require control of fugitive dust to protect air quality. Documentation in the file shows that the agency has already been engaged in monitoring of project activity. No further conditioning is required.

Long-Term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal including: increased surface water runoff due to greater site coverage by impervious surfaces; increased bulk and scale on the site; increased traffic in the area; increased demand for parking; and increased demand for public services and utilities.

Several adopted City codes and/or ordinances provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically these are: the Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code which requires on site collection of stormwater with provisions for controlled tight line release to an approved outlet and may require additional design elements to prevent isolated flooding; the City Energy Code which will require insulation for outside walls and energy efficient windows; and the Land Use Code which controls site coverage, setbacks, building height and use and contains other development and use regulations to assure compatible development. Compliance with these applicable codes and ordinances is adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation of most long term impacts and no further conditioning is warranted by SEPA policies.

Summary

The Department of Planning and Development has reviewed the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; and reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the file. As indicated in the checklist, this action will result in adverse impacts to the environment. However, due to their temporary nature and limited effects, the impacts are not expected to be significant.

Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposed project will provide sufficient mitigation and no further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

DECISION - SEPA

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C), including the requirement to inform the public agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- [X] Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 2c.
- [] Determination of Significance. This proposal has or may have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030 2c.

CONDITIONS – SEPA

Conditions of approval during construction

1. The hours of construction shall be limited to non-holiday weekday hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Signature: (signature on file) Date: July 14, 2005
Christopher Ndifon, Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development